Pulla (Finnish Cardamom Sweet Bread)

1 (38x15-cm) loaf / Serves 12

- 180 ml milk, warmed to 43°C
- 60 ml water, warmed to 43°C
- 66 g sugar
- 7 g instant yeast
- 585 g all-purpose flour
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 2 tsp ground cardamom
- ³⁄₄ tsp salt
- 56 g unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 1 egg beaten with 1 T of water (for egg wash)
- Coarse sugar and sliced almonds (for topping



1. In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine **milk**, **water** and **sugar**. Sprinkle the **yeast** over top and let stand for 5 minutes, until foamy.

(SAF instant yeast no need to do this...simply mix with ingredients in 2 below.)

- 2. Add 260 g of flour, eggs, cardamom, and salt. Mix until smooth.
- 3. Add the **butter** and mix until combined.
- 4. Knead the dough in the bowl, adding enough of the remaining **flour** to keep it from sticking, until the dough comes clean from the sides of the bowl and doesn't stick to your hands.
- 5. Shape the dough into a ball in the bowl and cover it with a damp tea towel. Let the dough rise in a warm, draft free place for 1 1½ hours, or until doubled.
- 6. Once risen, knock back the dough and divide it into 3 strands for a braid. Roll each strand into a 50-cm snake. Braid the strands and place the braided loaf on a parchment lined baking sheet. Brush the top of the loaf with the egg wash and sprinkle it with sugar and almonds, if desired. Let the loaf rise for 30-40 minutes, or until doubled in bulk.
- 7. Near the end of rising time, preheat your oven to **190°C**.
- 8. Bake the bread for 25-30 minutes, until golden and hollow sounding when tapped.
- 9. Remove the loaf from the oven and let it cool slightly on a wire rack before cutting.
 - ✓ Bread will keep for 1 week on the counter in an air-tight container.

For Rolls:

- 1. Divide the dough into 12 portions.
- 2. Roll each portion of dough into a round ball and place them on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
- 3. Brush the rolls with egg wash and sprinkle with sugar and almonds.
- 4. Let rise for 20-30 minutes, until doubled.
- 5. Bake the rolls for 10-15 minutes, until golden.

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